

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/688,670

Examiner

Kimberly D. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

UTZ ET AL

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed October 17, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/20/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-37 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Nicol et al. (US 3,704,793) teaches a sheet stacking device for serially stacking sheets in a substantially upright position where sheet ejection means impels a sheet upwardly into a vertically disposed sheet retainer. A sinuous guide opposingly displaced from the sheet retainer directs the sheet into engagement with the injecting means and assists in displacing the sheet securely into the sheet retainer by deflecting and bending the sheet in a predetermined degree and direction.

Owens et al. (US 6,164,638) teaches an automated banking machine identifies and stores documents such as currency bills deposited by a user. The machine then selectively recovers such documents from storage and dispenses them to other users. The machine includes a central transport wherein documents deposited in a stack are unstacked, oriented and identified. Such documents are then routed to storage areas in recycling canisters. When a user subsequently requests a dispense, documents stored in the storage areas are selectively picked therefrom and delivered to the user through an input/output area of the machine.

However, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an automated banking machine including, among with other limitations, at least one movable picking member, wherein the at least one picking member is positioned such that a first sheet bounding the stack engages the at least one picking member, and wherein movement

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of the at least one picking member in a picking direction is operative to urge the first sheet to move relative to the stack in a first direction, and wherein the at least one picking member includes a plurality of sheet engaging portions adapted to engage the first sheet, and at least one recess wherein the at least one recess extends in the first direction and is intermediate of adjacent sheet engaging portions; at least one first stripper portion, wherein the at least one first stripper portion extends in generally aligned relation with the at least one recess, wherein the at least one first stripper portion is positioned to engage the first sheet when the first sheet moves in the first direction between the at least one picking member and the at least one first stripper portion, wherein the at least one first stripper portion is not in contact stripping engagement with the at least one sheet engaging portion when the first sheet is not positioned between the at least one picking member and the at least one first stripper portion; at least one second stripper portion, wherein the at least one second stripper portion engages at least one cooperating sheet engaging portion in contact stripping engagement, and wherein the first sheet is enabled to move in the first direction between the at least one second stripper portion and the at least one cooperating first sheet engaging portion; wherein responsive to at least one user input to the at least one input device of the user interface, the at least one picking member moves in the picking direction engaging a first face of the first sheet and urging the first sheet to move from the stack in the first direction while the first stripper portion and the second stripper portion engage an opposed face of the first sheet and resist movement of the first sheet in the first direction, wherein sheets included in the stack other than the first

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sheet are generally prevented from moving from the stack with the first sheet as set forth in independent claim(s).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2402. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

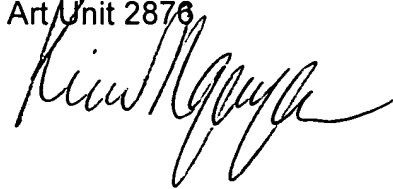
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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KDN

Kimberly D Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly D Nguyen', written over the printed name and title.